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A ~~tale~~ tale of PhD surviving and thriving!

by
Dr Tracy Ann Hayes
&
Maisy the Rotten Russell

Thursday 11 July 2019

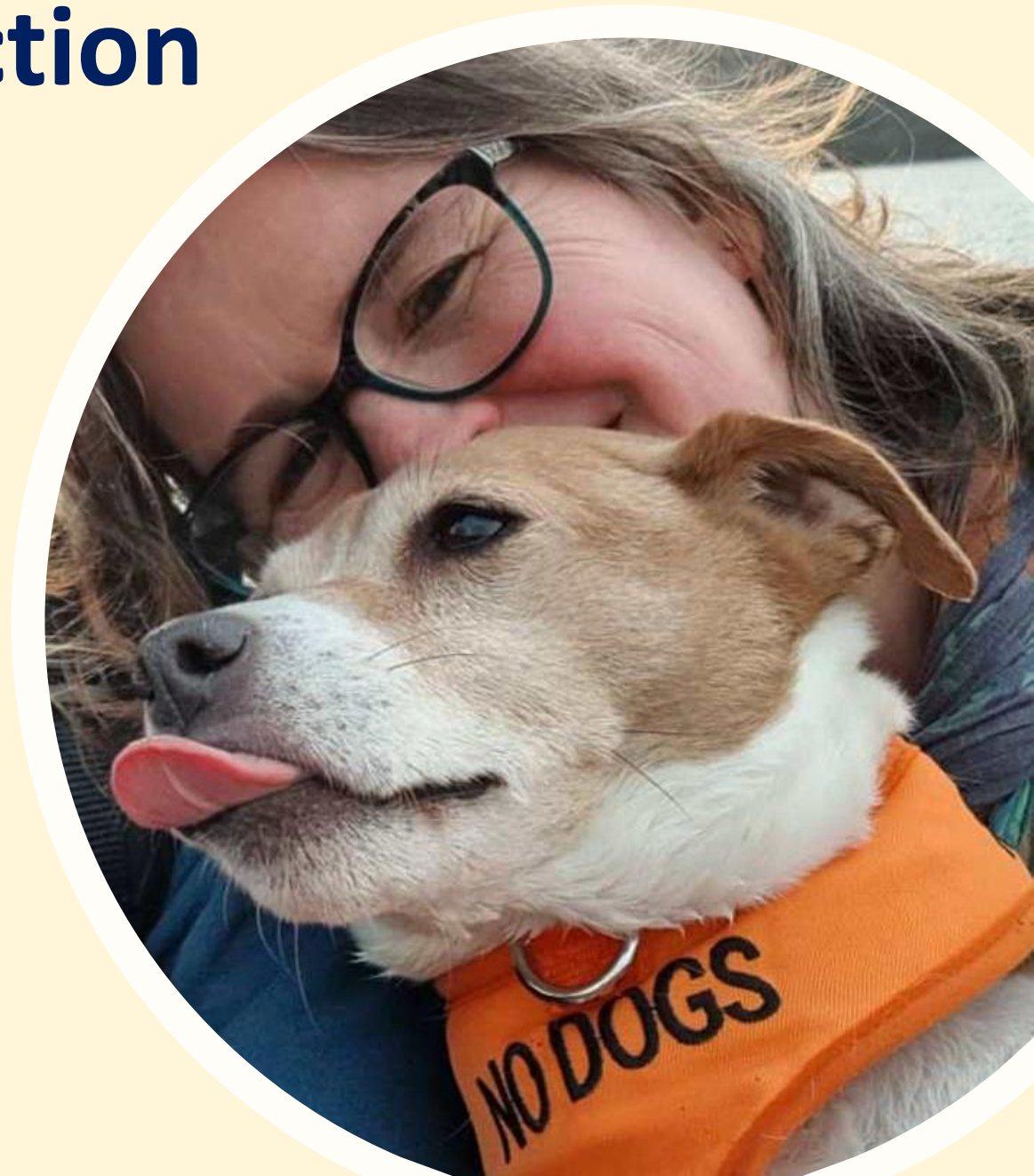
Introduction

Me: ~~Lecturer~~ Incompetent Human

- Teach on BA Working with Children & Families and MSc Applied Social Science
- PhD in Transdisciplinary Research in Outdoor Studies *Making Sense of Nature: A creative exploration of young people's relationship with the natural environment.*

Maisy: A ~~Rotten~~ Jack Russell

- Doesn't really like other dogs
- Or many people
- Keeps me grounded, takes me for walks...



Making Sense of Nature...

- The natural world is under threat from human activities and we need to consider how we protect places, people, animals and plants found there.
- My focus is on how we can engage the public in this (children, young people and families).
- Creative approach, preferring everyday language and utilising stories.
- Resulted in commission to develop a practitioners' toolkit providing guidance on how to work effectively outdoors, with young people identified as having special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Also worked with HASCE (now HASKE) on range of projects including delivery phase of the SNROS Heritage Lottery Funded Project: 'Back On Our Map' (BOOM).

Emerging Impact & Influence

- **Royal Geographical Society (RGS)**
 - Conference Officer of GCYFRG.
 - June 2016: awarded Reflective Essay Postgraduate Prize by HERG
 - Essay now published as a book chapter.
- **British Educational Research Association (BERA)**
 - In 2018, awarded the Anna Craft Creativities in Education Prize by BERA Creativities in Education sig.
 - Convener of new special interest group (sig) in *Nature, Outdoor Learning and Play* (nolap), officially launched 2 July 2019.
- **UoC**
 - June 2016, recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Early Career Research Excellence.
 - May 2017: awarded ECR grant to support post-doctoral study, for project titled 'Playing with Words... Connecting through Story'.





Lead editor



Chapter author



Chapter author



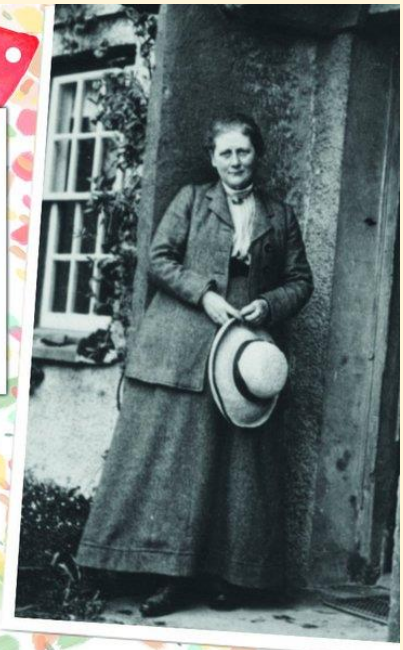
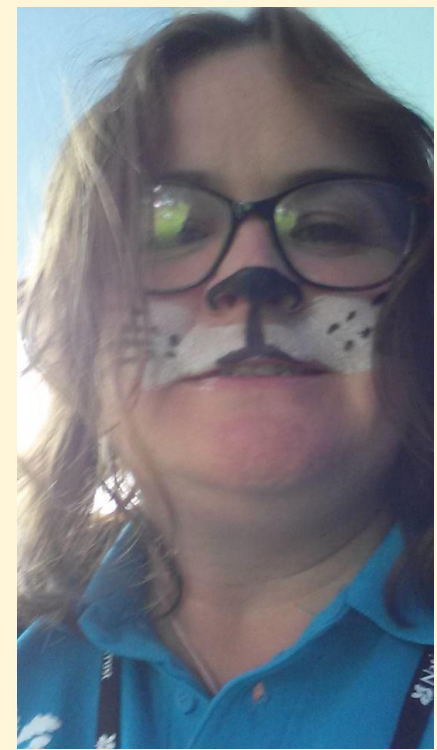
Celebrating achievements

Journal article - 'Dr Bear and the Adventure Bears', published in *Children's Geographies*.

Book chapters:

- 1) 'I thought... I saw... I heard...: the ethical and moral tensions of auto/biographically opportunistic research in public spaces', in *The Palgrave MacMillan Handbook of Auto/Biography*.
- 2) 'Bear Illustrations in Children's Literature', co-authored with Profs Heather Prince and Ian Convery, in *The Bear: A Cultural and Natural Heritage*.

**My non/less
academic
achievements
include...**





Finding the 'joy' in research...

- Not everyone will see what you see.
- Need to value differing perspectives.
- Be open to feedback.
- Respond to challenges.
- Which is where the real learning lies.

The Iceberg Illusion

Success is an iceberg

SUCCESS!

WHAT PEOPLE SEE

Persistence



Failure



Sacrifice



Disappointment



WHAT PEOPLE DON'T SEE

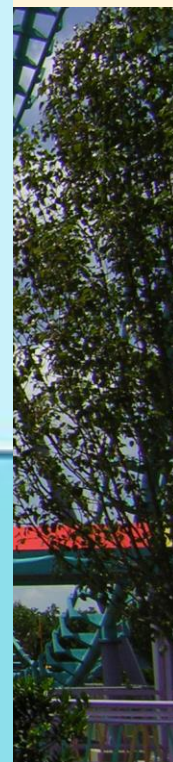
Dedication



Hard work



Discipline





Coping with the unexpected...

- I had no idea what a PhD was, until I did one.
- Not from an academic background.
- Preparation will take you so far...
- Flexibility, responsiveness and a good sense of humour are vital.

When things feel tough...

- Take a break
- Have a rest
- Do something different
- Remember this is a marathon, not a sprint....
- Pace yourself





You are not alone

- Supervisors
- Mentors
- Research Office
- Research community
- Family & Friends
- Pets...

Now a Nana to 2 grand-doggies and a very beautiful grand-daughter...



There is more to life than work ...



What's next?

Under development:

- Collaborative study into Nature, Outdoor Learning and Play as means of encouraging healthy and sustainable lifestyles.
- Exploring teaching ethics within research methods.
- Book chapter on practicalities of Creative research.
- **Red Riding Hood & Wolves** – an alternative story...
- **Raven Crag** - joining in with [Another Waynwright Day](#)

Thank you for listening – any questions?

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@hayes_tracy

